GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2522
ANSWERED ON:04.12.2007
USE OF MOBILE PHONE WHILE DRIVING
Khaire Shri Chandrakant Bhaurao

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been conducted by the Central Road Research Institute on the danger of using mobiles while driving as reported in Hindustan Times dated November 5, 2007.

(b) if so, the details of the findings and reaction of the Government;

(c) whether the Government proposes to amend the law regarding the use of mobile phone while driving;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO H. GAVIT)

(a) to (c): Yes Sir, A study was conducted in the year 2004 on "Safety Implications of Using Mobiles Phone". The details of the study findings are as under:

(i) The study has highlighted how the skills (visual, auditory, biomechanical and cognitive) required for driving are impaired due to the use of mobile phones while driving or walking,

(ii) The study has also highlighted that the use of mobile phones in India are more risky while driving as compared to developed world because the two-wheelers riders are more in India and proper use of helmets and balancing of the vehicle becomes more difficult as compared to four wheeled vehicles.

(iii) The study highlighted that it is a myth that hands-free mobiles are safe while driving as compared to hand-held phones.

(iv) Though the ownership of cell phones was much higher with women drivers as compared to males (98% verses 79%), the use of cell phone while driving was more common with males drivers as more than 22% males themselves reported using cell phone `often` as compared to 18% by women drivers, 24% `sometimes` in comparison to just 8.6% by females.

(v) The education level had a strong positive relationship with the use of cell phones as those with higher literacy level used mobile phones relatively more sensibly.

(vi) The ownership as well as the use of cell phone was found to be highly age related as younger people use it more in comparison to older ones.

(vii) The use of cell phone was observed to be higher with vigilance group, commercial drivers and housewives.

(viii) Over 50% of drivers participating in the Delhi study, felt that their safety was jeopardized by the use of cell phones by the fellow drivers in the traffic scheme.

The study was an in-house Research Project of Central Road Research Institute and was not intended for submission to any government agencies/departments.

(d) & (e): Does not arise.